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Title: Need to check the spread of sickle cell disease in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.

SHRI P. SRINIVASA REDDY (KHAMMAM): I wish to bring an important issue to the notice of Government through this august house that the Sickle Cell Disease is a serious disorder in which the body makes sickle-shaped red blood cells. Normal red blood cells are disc-shaped and look like doughnuts without holes in the centre and sickle cells are shaped like a crescent. Normal red blood cells move easily through human blood vessels and contain an iron-rich protein called haemoglobin. This protein carries oxygen from the lungs to the rest of the body. But the Sickle cells contain abnormal haemoglobin called sickle haemoglobin or haemoglobin S. Sickle haemoglobin causes the cells to develop a sickle, or crescent shape. Sickle cells are stiff and sticky. They tend to block blood flow in the blood vessels of the limbs and organs. Blocked blood flow can cause pain and organ damage. It can also raise the risk for infection.

Sickle cell anemia is one type of anemia. This condition can also occur if the red blood cells don't contain enough haemoglobin. Normal red blood cells live about 120 days in the bloodstream and then die. They carry oxygen and remove carbon dioxide from human body. In sickle cell anemia, the abnormal sickle cells usually die after only about 10 to 20 days. The bone marrow can't make new red blood cells fast enough to replace the dying ones. Sickle cell anemia is an inherited, lifelong disease. People inherit two genes for sickle haemoglobin—one from each parent. People who inherit a sickle haemoglobin gene from one parent and a normal gene from the other parent have a condition called sickle cell trait, so, to prevent this disease, marriages should be stopped in same sickle haemoglobin persons.

About one lakh tribal in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh are suffering from the sickle cell disease. During Prime Minister's recent visit to Japan, he sought help from Dr. Yamanaka, Japan's stem cell pioneer and a 2012 Nobel laureate to help battle sickle cell anaemia in India.

Since the disease is spreading very rapidly and lakhs of people are suffering from this disease in tribal areas, I urge upon the Government to take necessary steps to control the disease to save our tribal communities from vanishing.

12.30 hrs.

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